

# In the United States Court of Federal Claims

## OFFICE OF SPECIAL MASTERS

No. 17-1534V

Filed: March 20, 2019

UNPUBLISHED

JOHN G. RIMA,

Petitioner,

v.

SECRETARY OF HEALTH AND  
HUMAN SERVICES,

Respondent.

Special Processing Unit (SPU);  
Damages Decision Based on Proffer;  
Influenza (Flu) Vaccine; Guillain-  
Barre Syndrome (GBS)

*Kelly Danielle Burdette, Burdette Law, PLLC, North Bend, WA, for petitioner.*

*Adriana Ruth Teitel, U.S. Department of Justice, Washington, DC, for respondent.*

### **DECISION AWARDING DAMAGES**<sup>1</sup>

**Dorsey**, Chief Special Master:

On October 16, 2017, petitioner filed a petition for compensation under the National Vaccine Injury Compensation Program, 42 U.S.C. §300aa-10, *et seq.*,<sup>2</sup> (the “Vaccine Act”). Petitioner alleges that he suffered from Guillain-Barre Syndrome (“GBS”) following an influenza (“flu”) vaccine administered on October 29, 2014. Petition at 1. The case was assigned to the Special Processing Unit of the Office of Special Masters.

On August 31, 2018, a ruling on entitlement was issued, finding petitioner entitled to compensation for GBS. On March 19, 2019, respondent filed a proffer on award of compensation (“Proffer”) indicating petitioner should be awarded \$101,297.89

<sup>1</sup> The undersigned intends to post this decision on the United States Court of Federal Claims' website. **This means the decision will be available to anyone with access to the internet.** In accordance with Vaccine Rule 18(b), petitioner has 14 days to identify and move to redact medical or other information, the disclosure of which would constitute an unwarranted invasion of privacy. If, upon review, the undersigned agrees that the identified material fits within this definition, the undersigned will redact such material from public access. Because this unpublished decision contains a reasoned explanation for the action in this case, undersigned is required to post it on the United States Court of Federal Claims' website in accordance with the E-Government Act of 2002. 44 U.S.C. § 3501 note (2012) (Federal Management and Promotion of Electronic Government Services).

<sup>2</sup> National Childhood Vaccine Injury Act of 1986, Pub. L. No. 99-660, 100 Stat. 3755. Hereinafter, for ease of citation, all “§” references to the Vaccine Act will be to the pertinent subparagraph of 42 U.S.C. § 300aa (2012).

consisting of \$100,000.00 for pain and suffering, and \$1,297.89 for unreimbursed medical expenses. Proffer at 1. In the Proffer, respondent represented that petitioner agrees with the proffered award. *Id.* Based on the record as a whole, the undersigned finds that petitioner is entitled to an award as stated in the Proffer.

Pursuant to the terms stated in the attached Proffer, **the undersigned awards petitioner a lump sum payment of \$101,297.89 consisting of \$100,000.00 for pain and suffering, and \$1,297.89 for unreimbursed medical expenses in the form of a check payable to petitioner, John G. Rima.** This amount represents compensation for all damages that would be available under § 15(a).

The clerk of the court is directed to enter judgment in accordance with this decision.<sup>3</sup>

**IT IS SO ORDERED.**

**s/Nora Beth Dorsey**

Nora Beth Dorsey  
Chief Special Master

---

<sup>3</sup> Pursuant to Vaccine Rule 11(a), entry of judgment can be expedited by the parties' joint filing of notice renouncing the right to seek review.

**IN THE UNITED STATES COURT OF FEDERAL CLAIMS  
OFFICE OF SPECIAL MASTERS**

JOHN G. RIMA,

Petitioner,

v.

SECRETARY OF HEALTH AND  
HUMAN SERVICES,

Respondent.

No. 17-1534V  
Chief Special Master Dorsey  
ECF

**RESPONDENT’S PROFFER ON AWARD OF COMPENSATION**

On August 31, 2018, respondent filed a Rule 4(c) Report conceding that petitioner is entitled to vaccine compensation for the Guillain-Barré syndrome (“GBS”) he suffered following receipt of an influenza vaccine. Additionally, on August 31, 2018, the Chief Special Master issued a Ruling on Entitlement adopting respondent’s recommendation.

**I. Compensation for Vaccine Injury-Related Items**

Respondent proffers that based on the evidence of record, petitioner should be awarded \$101,297.89, comprised of \$100,000.00 for pain and suffering and \$1,297.89 for unreimbursed medical expenses. This amount represents all elements of compensation to which petitioner would be entitled under 42 U.S.C. § 300aa-15(a). Petitioner agrees.

**II. Form of the Award**

Respondent recommends that the compensation provided to petitioner should be made through a lump sum payment as described below, and requests that the special master’s decision and the Court’s judgment award the following:<sup>1</sup>

---

<sup>1</sup> Should petitioner die prior to entry of judgment, respondent reserves the right to move the Court for appropriate relief. In particular, respondent would oppose any award for future medical expenses, future pain and suffering, and future lost wages.

A lump sum payment of \$101,297.89 in the form of a check payable to petitioner, John G. Rima. This amount accounts for all elements of compensation under 42 U.S.C. § 300aa-15(a) to which petitioner would be entitled.

Petitioner is a competent adult. Evidence of guardianship is not required in this case.

Respectfully submitted,

JOSEPH H. HUNT  
Assistant Attorney General

C. SALVATORE D’ALESSIO  
Acting Director  
Torts Branch, Civil Division

CATHARINE E. REEVES  
Deputy Director  
Torts Branch, Civil Division

ALEXIS BABCOCK  
Assistant Director  
Torts Branch, Civil Division

/s/ Adriana Teitel  
ADRIANA TEITEL  
Trial Attorney  
Torts Branch, Civil Division  
U.S. Department of Justice  
P.O. Box 146, Benjamin Franklin Station  
Washington, DC 20044-0146  
Tel: (202) 616-3677

Dated: March 19, 2019